5

15

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1. A method of imaging an object using radiation, comprising:
 - obtaining projection data from at least one real detector array, the at least one real detector array obtaining projection data at two or more positions, and having a geometry that is neither equilinear nor equiangular;

reprojecting the projection data onto a virtual detector array that has a geometry that is either equilinear or equiangular; and

reconstructing the reprojected data from the virtual detector array.

- The method of Claim 1, wherein the at least one real detector array comprises two or more detectors configured to obtain projection data at two or more positions.
 - 3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the at least one real detector array comprises at least one detector that is movable to obtain projection data at two or more positions.
 - 4. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

 projecting radiation from a source onto the at least one real detector array.
 - 5. The method of Claim 4, wherein the radiation comprises x-ray radiation.
- 20 6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the virtual detector array is equilinear.
 - 7. The method of Claim 1, wherein the virtual detector array is equiangular.

5

15

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein reprojecting the projection data onto a virtual array comprises:

allocating a virtual array that comprises virtual pixels that are equallyspaced in distance or angle;

for each virtual pixel, determining a corresponding real detector pixel in a real detector array that is intersected by a line connecting the virtual pixel to the source of projected radiation; and

using a radiation amplitude value detected at the corresponding real detector pixel to determine a radiation amplitude value for the virtual pixel.

- 10 9. The method of Claim 8, wherein determining a radiation amplitude value for the virtual pixel comprises interpolating a value from the radiation amplitude values of the corresponding real detector pixel and neighboring real detector pixels.
 - 10. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

filtering data from the virtual detector array; and backprojecting data from the virtual detector array.

- 11. The method of Claim 1, wherein the at least one real detector array comprises at least one one-dimensional line detector.
- 12. The method of Claim 1, wherein the at least one real detector array comprises at least one two-dimensional flat panel detector.
- 20 13. A system for imaging an object using radiation, comprising:

a source of radiation;

at least one real detector array that obtains projection data at two or more positions, and has a geometry that is neither equilinear nor equiangular; and

a data process for reprojecting the projection data onto a virtual detector array that has a geometry that is either equilinear or equiangular, and for reconstructing the reprojected data from the virtual detector array.

- 14. The system of Claim 13, wherein the source comprises an x-ray source.
- 5 15. The system of Claim 13, wherein the at least one real detector array comprises at least one one-dimensional line detector.
 - 16. The system of Claim 13, wherein the at least one real detector array comprises at least one two-dimensional flat panel detector.
 - 17. The system of Claim 13, wherein the virtual detector array is equilinear.
- 10 18. The system of Claim 13, wherein the virtual detector array is equiangular.
 - 19. The system of Claim 13, wherein the at least one real detector array comprises at least two detectors configured to obtain projection data at two or more positions.
- The system of Claim 19, wherein the at least two detectors are disposed end-to-end, and angled relative to one another to approximate an arc having a radius
 centered at a focal spot of the source.
 - 21. The system of Claim 13, wherein the at least one real detector array comprises at least one detector movable to two or more positions to obtain projection data.
 - 22. The system of Claim 13, wherein the virtual detector array comprises an array of equally-spaced virtual pixels.

10

- 23. The system of Claim 22, wherein the data process reprojects data by assigning a radiation amplitude value to each virtual pixel based upon a measured radiation amplitude value of a corresponding real pixel that intersects a line between the virtual pixel and the radiation source.
- 5 24. A system for imaging an object using radiation, comprising:

means for obtaining projection data from at least one real detector array, the at least one real detector array obtaining projection data at two or more positions, and having a geometry that is neither equilinear nor equiangular;

means for reprojecting the projection data onto a virtual detector array that has a geometry that is either equilinear or equiangular; and

means for reconstructing the reprojected data from the virtual detector array.